GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1268
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
BROADCASTING COMPANIES UNDER THE AMBIT OF TRAI
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether various broadcasting companies have been brought under the ambit of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefit accruing to the Union Government as a result thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Yes, Sir. Broadcasting companies are under Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) with respect to carriage and pricing only.

(b) The Government of India notified Broadcasting services to be telecommunication services under Section 2(1) (k) of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997. Therefore all broadcasting and cable services are now being regulated by TRAI as per the provisions of TRAI Act, 1997.

(c) TRAI as statutory body under the TRAI Act regulate carriage & pricing issues related to broadcasting services and protects the interests of service providers and consumers of the broadcasting sector to promote and ensure orderly growth of the broadcasting sector. TRAI has created a conducive regulatory framework in the broadcasting sector. TRAI has created a conducive regulatory framework in the broadcasting sector by issuing tariff orders, interconnection regulations and Quality of Service regulations. TRAI has given its recommendations on Headed in the Sky (HITS), Internet Protocol Television (IPTV), Mobile TV, Direct-to-home services, CAS specific regulations for Cable TV services etc. As a result of these regulatory measures/initiatives of TRAI the consumers have benefited by getting services at affordable price without compromising the quality of service.